

## EGXA 4Q17 Issues List

### CRIME

- **October 27 – 6 & 11pm – Washington County deputies to have criminal case presented to grand jury:** Three Washington County deputies that were fired after a man died in their custody will have their criminal case presented to a grand jury on December 19. Washington County District Attorney Hayward Altman said that the charges of felony murder, involuntary manslaughter, false imprisonment, aggravated assault, simple battery, and reckless conduct will be pursued. Altman said that he came to the decision of pursuing a criminal indictment for these charges after receiving Eurie Martin's autopsy report on Monday, Oct. 23 and after the GBI's investigation into the three deputies. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/washington-county-deputies-to-have-criminal-case-presented-to-grand-jury>
- **November 1 – ABC Morning – Update: Man shot twice outside Houston Rd. apartment in critical condition:** A man was shot at a Macon apartment complex and taken to the hospital Tuesday night. According to Lt. Randy Gonzalez with the Bibb County Sheriff's Office, a 22-year-old Kibwe Troupe-Steed reportedly walked outside of an apartment at Rutland Place on Houston Rd. after 10:30 p.m. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/man-shot-twice-outside-houston-rd-apartment>
- **December 20 – 6 & 11pm – Fatal shooting in North Macon neighborhood makes 29 homicides in 2017:** Bibb Sheriff's deputies are investigating a fatal shooting that happened just before 11:00 a.m. Wednesday. According to Macon-Bibb 911 dispatchers, they received a call that a person was lying in the middle of the road near a home in the 800 block of Green Oak Terrace in Macon. A report from the Bibb County Sheriff's Department stated that the victim, 17-year-old Paul Brown, allegedly attempted to burglarize the home at 814 Green Oak Terrace. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/macon-shooting-at-green-oak-terrace>

### EDUCATION

- **October 9 – 6pm – HOPE Career Grant provides scholarship money for 12 designated fields:** Thanks to a grant administered by the Georgia Department of Education, many students pursuing a degree in certain career fields can get help with their tuition. The HOPE Career Grant affords students in any of 12 career fields up to \$1,000 per term. The 12 fields include certified engineer assistant, commercial truck driving, computer programming, computer technology, diesel equipment technology, early childhood care and education, health science, industrial maintenance, movie production/set design, practical nursing, precision manufacturing, and welding and joining technology. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/hope-career-grant-provides-scholarship-money-for-12-designated-fields>
- **November 11 – 6 & 11pm – Students say gun at school caused panic, school system 'evaluating security measures':** Students and parents are unsure about school safety after a stolen gun that a boy reportedly brought to Lakeview Academy discharged in a classroom on Friday. Fifth grader Lamar Pounds said he was not expecting to hear a gunshot at school. "I was kind of in a panic attack," he said. "I was feeling panic and you know scared." Student Jonathan Simpson said the rumors spread quickly around Lakeview Academy. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/students-say-gun-at-school-caused-panic-school-system-evaluating-security-measures>
- **December 14 – 11pm – State Rep. James Beverly announces partnership with CGTC at town hall:** State Representative James Beverly held a town hall at the Buck Melton Community Center on Thursday to announce an education partnership with Central Georgia Technical College. The partnership encourages individuals working on the Pleasant Hill construction sites to get their certificates so that they can advance their careers and find better construction jobs later on. Beverly said that many have been employed for the construction projects on I-75 and said that these men deserve certification for their work. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/state-rep-james-beverly-announces-partnership-with-cgtc-at-town-hall>

### HOUSING

- **October 19 – 6pm – Jefferson Award Nominee: Frank Austin:** Frank Austin of Macon is definitely a man who makes things happen. He's on the front lines of the fight to eradicate blight and reduce crime in

parts of Macon. He is this month's Jefferson Award winner. Seven years ago Austin saw what could become of a place many people had left for ruin. In the Village Green Shalom Zone you'll find plenty of boarded up houses, over grown yards and hazard areas where children could get hurt.

<http://wgxa.tv/news/jefferson-awards/jefferson-award-nominee-frank-austin>

- **November 17 – 11pm – Neighborhood watch communication has changed with social apps like Nextdoor:** The future of keeping neighborhoods safe has arrived. With social apps like Nextdoor, some neighborhood watch groups have changed the way they communicate and keep their neighborhoods safe. With apps like these, monthly neighborhood watch meetings or calling around for answers in an emergency are no longer necessary. JoAnn Beitz of Macon believes it's a revolutionary tool. She said that in her neighborhood, there are approximately 500 people on the app even though only a few showed up to the monthly neighborhood watch meetings. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/neighborhood-watch-communication-has-changed-with-social-apps-like-nextdoor>
- **December 12 – 6pm – Homelessness down in Georgia, still an issue that needs a “community-wide effort”:** According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, there are more people living on the streets across the US, except in Georgia. The HUD has confirmed that overall, the state is one of a few seeing the largest decline in homelessness. This year there are over 10,000 homeless people living on the streets in Georgia, a 21 percent decline from last year. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/homelessness-down-in-georgia-still-an-issue-that-needs-a-community-wide-effort>

## MINORITY

- **October 31 – 11pm – Activists worry historic cemetery could be lost, I-75 construction bringing new attention:** Local activists are working to clean up an old Macon cemetery. The cemetery sits on Walnut Street near where Interstate-75 is currently under a major construction. It's overgrown with so much brush that graves of influential Maconites are completely hidden. Those people include Charles Douglass, the builder of the Douglass Theatre downtown, and Jefferson Long, the first black man elected to Congress. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/historic-cemetery-overgrown-by-brush-coming-into-view-with-interstate-construction>
- **November 1 – 11pm – Georgia law enforcement officer undergo training, preparation before allowed in the field:** A great deal of training is required before Georgia law enforcement officers are allowed in the field since they deal with high-risk situations. The decisions they make can affect not only their lives, but lives around them. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/georgia-law-enforcement-officer-undergo-training-preparation-before-allowed-in-the-field>
- **December 29 – 6 or 11pm – New Milledgeville mayor is first African-American woman to hold that position in the city:** Milledgeville officially has a new mayor in office, and she's the first African-American woman to hold that position in the city. Mary Copelan was sworn in on Friday, Dec. 29 along with new city council members. Copelan said she will get to work right away on making Milledgeville a better place. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/new-milledgeville-mayor-is-first-african-american-woman-to-hold-that-position-in-the-city>

## PARENTING

- **October 25 – 6pm – Halloween safety priority for Bibb County Sheriff's Office:** Children's safety is the number one concern for the Bibb County Sheriff's Office on Halloween. "It's important to have fun and be safe this Halloween," said Lieutenant Randy Gonzalez. Lt. Gonzalez says that foot traffic is heavy in neighborhoods on the the night of Halloween, so basic safety tips are imperative to keep your child safe. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/halloween-safety-priority-for-bibb-county-sheriffs-office>
- **November 14 – 6pm – 8 Bibb schools among lowest performing in state, new law could give them extra attention:** One hundred and four schools are on a new list of the lowest performing in Georgia, called the “Turnaround Eligible Schools List.” Eight of the 104 schools are in Bibb County. The list averages three years of Career and College Readiness Performance Index scores, or CCRPI. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/8-bibb-schools-among-lowest-performing-in-state-new-law-could-give-them-extra-attention>
- **December 17 – 6pm – Monitoring teens online, a balance of freedom and restriction:** The PEW Research Center did a study that found that 61% of parents check their teens web history and social media

profiles. One expert said there is a fine line between open communication and controlling communication, and the way parents handle internet use with their teens can make all the difference. Father of three Chris Roberts takes a firm approach when it comes to his 12-year-old and her online activities.

<http://wgxa.tv/news/local/monitoring-teens-online-is-there-a-balance-of-freedom-and-restriction>

## SENIOR

**October 18 – 6pm – Study: 20 percent of adults afraid they won't be able to retire:** If you're an adult, no matter your age, it's time to start thinking about retirement now. According to a [CareerBuilder survey](#), 20 percent of adults don't think they'll be able to retire, but you're more in control of your retirement income than you think. It just requires early planning. Financial Adviser Colleen Griffin with Beall Financial emphasizes that retirement isn't just for the elderly to think about - she says start planning now. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/study-20-percent-of-adults-afraid-they-wont-be-able-to-retire>

**November 29 – 6pm – Retired Bibb County employees concerned about increased premiums, go to commission:** A group of retired Bibb County employees are worried about their increased insurance premiums and retirement plans, and have taken their concerns to the mayor. However, Macon-Bibb County Mayor Robert Reichert defended decisions he believes will help keep the county's budget in check, while also holding true to obligations made to seniors. On Tuesday, Nov. 28, the group of retired county employees voiced three major concerns.

<http://wgxa.tv/news/local/retired-bibb-county-employees-take-concerns-of-increased-premiums-to-commission>

**December 20 – 11pm – Rebuilding Macon receives two community block grants to help local homeowners:** On Tuesday, a local organization received grant money to rebuild homes for people who need it most. The Macon-Bibb County Commission approved nearly \$200,000 in grant funds for Rebuilding Macon, a nonprofit group that repairs homes for low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/rebuilding-macon-receives-two-community-block-grants-to-help-local-homeowners>

## POLITICAL

**October 18 – 11pm – MTA getting electric buses after commission debate:** Macon-Bibb commissioners approved a little over a million dollars for the purchase of two electric buses for the Macon Transit Authority Tuesday, but some commissioners felt that money could be used elsewhere. The county will pay about \$1.1 million for the buses. Another \$1.7 million for the new buses will come from a federal grant the county received. Commissioners budgeted about \$3 million in the 2017 SPLOST for the buses, so the county will still have about \$1.9 million of unused funds after purchasing the buses. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/mta-getting-electric-buses-after-commission-debate>

**November 9 – 11pm – Poll shows Georgians opinions changing on gambling, education and medical marijuana:** Georgia College and State University recently conducted a poll which concluded that citizens of the state support casino gambling, legalizing medical marijuana and paying more to improve public education. The Department of Government and Sociology's Georgia State of the State Poll takes in residents' opinions on important issues. Issues in the poll focus on aspects of the state such as the economy, elected officials' job performance and more. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/georgia-college-releases-state-of-the-state-poll-for-opinions-on-key-issues>

**December 1 – First annual garbage bills sent to Macon-Bibb residents:** The first annual solid waste bills for Macon residents were sent out Friday after months of back and forth between commissioners, residents and the mayor. In September, the Macon-Bibb Commission was one vote shy of overriding Mayor Robert Reichert's veto and keeping quarterly garbage billings. The bills will be for \$300, covering a service period from Oct. 1, 2017 to Dec. 31, 2018. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/first-annual-garbage-bills-sent-to-macon-bibb-residents>

## HEALTHCARE

**October 20 – ABC Morning – Houston Healthcare hosts nursing recruitment fair and open house:** If you're a nursing professional in the Middle Georgia area and looking for a career opportunity, Houston Healthcare is looking for qualified candidates. The hospital will host its Fall Nursing Recruitment Fair and open House on Friday, October 20th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will be held at the Cary W. Martin Conference Center, located in the Houston Health Pavilion 233 North Houston Road in Warner Robins. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/houston-healthcare-hosts-nursing-recruitment-fair-and-open-house>

**November 16 – 6pm – ‘Strategic Combination’ possible between Navicent and Houston Healthcare:** Thursday Navicent Health confirmed that in conjunction with Houston Healthcare, they are planning what they're calling a "strategic combination" of their two health systems. Megan Allen, Navicent's Public Relations Manager said, "To be clear, this is a potential strategic combination and neither health system is not describing it as a merger." <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/strategic-combination-possible-between-navicent-and-houston-healthcare>

**December 29 – 6 and 11pm – Take precautions to avoid frostbite as winter weather approaches the midstate:** As winter weather approaches the midstate, it's important to take certain precautions to avoid getting frostbite. Temperatures are expected to dip into the twenties in the coming days, and health professionals say that while it doesn't take long for frostbite symptoms to set in, they can cause serious damage. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/take-precautions-to-avoid-frostbite-as-winter-weather-approaches-the-midstate>

## **TERRORISM**

**October 2 – 5pm – ‘Don’t stay put’: Safety expert explains how to react in active shooter situations:** The fatal shooting of at least 58 people at a country music festival in Las Vegas has some questioning whether they are prepared in the event they are caught in a similar tragedy. Bradley McKinnley, an instructor specializing in terrorism response training at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, said that there are a few things you should remember should you ever find yourself in one of these horrific situations. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/dont-stay-put-safety-expert-explains-how-to-react-in-active-shooter-situations>

**November 1 – 5pm – Middle Georgia reacts to the New York terror attack:** After the Oct. 31 terror attack in New York City, locals in Macon offered their thoughts about the violence and how it affects them. Jasmine Jackson, a mother and a student at Mercer University downtown, said that it's unfortunate how often attacks like this seem to happen and how easy it is to become desensitized and not to care. She said that this attack does make her concerned however because of the nature of it. A person using a vehicle as a weapon appears more threatening to her because it's so much more accessible than other forms of attack. <http://wgxa.tv/news/local/middle-georgia-reacts-to-the-new-york-terror-attack>